

think the American people can relish, is that Members from our own body are going to try to bring some common sense back to our own, to our own brethren, to try to realign where we have gotten off stray. It is exciting to be part of this and what I hope to see would be a grassroots swell of support from the people in Nebraska and Omaha, in Memphis, TN, and in Georgia to see it happening from the grassroots up. So I am privileged to be part of this.

I thank my colleagues for their colloquy tonight.

Madam Speaker, I have a few comments before we close this evening. I thank you for your indulgence through this evening. In a few weeks we will be taking on this fight, this fight to expand our tort reform to take a look at all civil areas and so that we can expand in to take tort reform not just to product liability but to all areas of civil torts. One of the things that I am most encouraged about is that there is over 75 signatures on a sheet that we circulated today, just 1 day of circulation, that there is a lot of support in grassroots America and in the House of Representatives for what we are talking about.

And if there was ever a time to bring some common sense to legal reform, it is now.

Mr. HEINEMAN. Mr. Speaker, meaningful tort reform is of great importance to all Americans—not just big business as the trial lawyers would have you believe. By limiting runaway punitive damage awards, we have the opportunity to help local groups such as Little League and the Boy Scouts, city and town government, entrepreneurs, small businesses, doctors, and other providers of services.

The great majority of States have no standards or guidelines that juries or the courts can use to determine the maximum possible award in a case. As a result, the frequency, and more importantly, the size of punitive damage awards have increased markedly in the past years.

A Rand Corp. study found that in Cook County IL, there was a 2000 percent increase in punitive damage awards over a 20-year period. Perhaps even more startling was the size of the awards. Over that same period, the average punitive damage award increased from \$7,000 to \$729,000.

Dr. Peter Huber of the Manhattan Institute estimates that our tort liability system, in effect, imposes a direct tax upon us all to the tune of \$80 billion a year.

However, the primary impact is not in the courtroom, but at the settlement table, where more and more defendants settle out of court to bypass arbitrary awards.

Punitive damage awards are not only unfair to corporate defendants, they hurt the consumers of products and services. A recent study of the economic impact of punitive damages in Texas found that huge punitive damage awards penalize everyone across the board as costs are shifted to the consumer in the form of higher prices and fewer innovative goods being produced. Without innovation we cannot compete in the global marketplace.

However, punitive damage reform limited to product liability cases addresses only a small

part of the current abuses in litigation. There is a compelling need for a Federal standard for all cases in which punitive damages are sought.

In last week's Wall Street Journal, Creighton Hale, the CEO of Little League Baseball, chronicled how frivolous litigation seriously threatens Little League. The astronomical cost of litigation and the fear of being sued scares away volunteer coaches, umpires, and even the kids.

Little League has seen its liability insurance skyrocket 1000 percent—from \$75 per league to \$795. So, instead of buying protective equipment to enable more children to bat, throw, run and catch, Little League subsidizes those who take advantage of the current system.

Unbearable litigation, insurance costs, and fear of being sued unnecessarily is a common problem to all nonprofits. That is why expansion of the substantive reforms contained in the Commonsense Legal Reform Act will provide the predictability and proportionality in all civil tort cases.

My 38 years in law enforcement taught me that those accused of a crime have the constitutional protection to have notice of the charges and what punishment they face. Similarly, we should afford businesses, municipalities, and charitable organizations the same protection.

I certainly don't seek to avoid just compensation for those who have suffered legitimate losses as the result of neglect, misconduct, or indifference. Injured parties should be promptly and fairly compensated. The Commonsense Legal Reform Act allows equitable awards and in no way proscribes compensatory damages in any tort action.

Nor am I attempting to eliminate punitive damages. But fairness requires that damages bear a reasonable relationship to the person's actual injury. Unfortunately, in today's litigious society that simply is not the case.

Passage of the Commonsense Legal Reform Act is a vital step forward to provide equity throughout our civil justice system for all Americans. Let's reign in those who are abusing the system and are shutting down small businesses, the YMCA, the United Way, the Boy Scouts and Little League.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MOLINARI). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CRAPO (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of illness in his family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legis-

lative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. DELAURO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. CHRISTENSEN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SAXTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TORKILDSEN, for 5 minutes, on February 22.

Mr. BRYANT, for 5 minutes, on February 22.

Mr. GRAHAM, for 5 minutes, on February 22.

Mr. HILLEARY, for 5 minutes, on February 22.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and on February 22.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH, for 5 minutes, today and on February 22, 23, and 24.

Mr. MICA, for 5 minutes, on February 22 and 23.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EWING, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(Mr. MOAKLEY, and to include extraneous matter, on House Resolution 88 today.)

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. DELAURO) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. BECERRA.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida.

Mr. UNDERWOOD.

Ms. RIVERS.

Mr. KLECZKA.

Mr. COYNE.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. CHRISTENSEN) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. CRANE.

Mr. PACKARD.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

Ms. HUNTER.

Mr. TATE.

Mr. DAVIS.

Mr. GOODLING.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut.

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 257. An act to amend the charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to make eligible for membership those veterans that have served within the territorial limits of South Korea; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 22, 1995, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

381. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting his request to make available emergency appropriations totaling \$145 million in budget authority for the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Commerce, and to designate these amounts as emergency requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1107 (H. Doc. No. 104-38); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

382. Acting Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting notification concerning a collaborative counterterrorism research and development effort with the United Kingdom (Transmittal No. 02-95), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

383. Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1994, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(e); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

384. Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the annual report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for fiscal year 1994, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

385. Secretary, Resolution Trust Corporation, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1994, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

386. Deputy Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting an informational copy of the report of building project survey for Hilo, HI; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Resources. H.R. 421, A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for the purchase of common stock of Cook Inlet Region, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 104-40). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Resources. H.R. 622, A bill to implement the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (Rept. 104-41). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Resources. H.R. 715. A bill to amend the Central

Bering Sea Fisheries Enforcement Act of 1992 to prohibit fishing in the Central Sea of Okhotsk by vessels and nationals of the United States (Rept. 104-42). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. LINDER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 91, Resolution providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 830) to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to further the goals of the Paperwork Reduction Act to have Federal agencies become more responsible and publicly accountable for reducing the burden of Federal paperwork on the public; and for other purposes (Rept. 104-43). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. DREIER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 92. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 889) making emergency supplemental appropriations and rescissions to preserve and enhance the military readiness of the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes (Rept. 104-44). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 5 of rule X and clause 4 of rule XXII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred as follows:

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 993. A bill concerning denial of passports to noncustodial parents subject to State arrest warrants in cases of nonpayment of child support; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. CHAPMAN (for himself, Mr. MICA, Mr. DELAY, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, and Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas):

H.R. 994. A bill to require the periodic review and automatic termination of Federal regulations; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FAWELL (for himself, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. PETRI, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. MCKEON, Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas, Mr. TALENT, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WELDON of Florida, and Mr. MCINTOSH):

H.R. 995. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide new portability, participation, solvency, claims, and other consumer protections and freedoms for workers in a mobile workforce; to increase purchasing power for employers and employees by removing barriers to the voluntary formation of multiple employer health plans and fully-insured multiple employer arrangements; to increase health plan competition providing more affordable choice of coverage by removing restrictive State laws relating to provider health networks, employer health coalitions, and insured plans and the offering of medisave plans; to expand access to fully-insured coverage for employees of small employers through fair rating standards and open markets; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FAWELL (for himself, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. PETRI, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. MCKEON, Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas, Mr. TALENT, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WELDON of Florida, and Mr. MCINTOSH):

H.R. 996. A bill to improve portability, access, and fair rating for health insurance coverage for individuals; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. CRANE:

H.R. 997. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under part B of the Medicare Program of certain chiropractic services authorized to be performed under State law; to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GEJDENSON:

H.R. 998. A bill to amend title III of the Job Training Partnership Act to provide employment and training assistance for certain individuals who work at or live in the community of a plant, facility, or enterprise that is scheduled to close or undergo significant layoffs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

By Mr. GOODLING:

H.R. 999. A bill to establish a single, consolidated source of Federal child care funding; to establish a program to provide block grants to States to provide nutrition assistance to economically disadvantaged individuals and families and to establish a program to provide block grants in States to provide school-based food services to students; to restrict alien eligibility for certain education, training, and other programs; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VENTO (for himself, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BEILINSON, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FARR, Ms. FURSE, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINCHHEY, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. JACOBS, Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida, Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. MINGE, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. REED, Ms. RIVERS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SABO, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SCHROEDER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SKAGGS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. STARK, Mr. TORRES, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WILLIAMS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. YATES, and Mr. ZIMMER):

H.R. 1000. A bill to designate certain lands in Alaska as wilderness; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. GEJDENSON:

H.R. 1001. A bill to deauthorize a portion of the project for improving the Mystic River,